

## **Delta Regional Authority Regional Development Plan III**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

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**Q: Are members of the Delta Leadership Institute eligible to apply?**

A: For eligibility guidelines, please refer to RFP sections 1.3 and 3.8. As stated in RFP section 1.3:

*Respondents must be professionals or entities with demonstrated expertise in economic development.*

As stated in RFP section 3.8, respondents must provide the following information pertaining to eligibility:

- a. *Evidence of the respondent's qualifications and credentials in terms of proven successful experience in multi-state strategic planning,*
- b. *Evidence of the respondent's qualifications and credentials in terms of proven successful experience in ensuring that "local voices are heard" in planning processes. Also, respondent's experience in developing materials to be used in such public outreach and solicitation of public input should be included.*
- c. *Evidence of the qualifications and credentials of the respondent in terms of proven successful experience in forming sub-regional strategic coalitions and/or performing strategic planning processes,*
- d. *Evidence of the qualifications and credentials of the respondent in terms of proven successful experience in performing regional, state-level and sub-regional research and analysis, particularly in the context of assembling disaggregated data into larger and more-usable groupings.*

**Q: There is a mention of three references and three letters of recommendations. Can they overlap?**

A: Yes, the three references (individuals) listed can correspond with the three letters of recommendation provided in the proposal, as required in RFP section 3.7. Please ensure that the materials speak to a total of at least three different professional experiences.

**Q: This sounds very wide net – are projects at a local level going to be acceptable, or do they need to be parish or region oriented?**

A: Proposals submitted in response to this RFP must be region-wide in scope. The purpose of this RFP is to update the DRA's region-wide strategic plan which will help direct the DRA's priorities and investments throughout the entire Delta region, as stated in RFP section 1.1:

*The RDP III will also integrate DRA's collaborative work with its various partners, including local and regional stakeholders, community organizations, non-profit and philanthropic organizations, and federal agencies. The RDP III will ultimately become the DRA's updated five-year comprehensive strategic plan and will set actionable guidelines, priorities, strategies, and benchmarks for the DRA as it continues its work to bolster the economic development of the Delta region of the United States.*

**Q: Will meetings with the contractor be held in Clarksdale MS, or another location?**

A: Meetings will be held in multiple locations, which may include, but will not be limited to, Clarksdale Mississippi. As stated in RFP section 1.4, there will be a region-wide kickoff event, as well as eight listening sessions held in each of the eight DRA states, and other performance review meetings:

*Region-wide kickoff event held in the Delta region with a listening session format. Event and coordination will be managed by the contractor and DRA Project Director, with DRA input, guidance, and staff support*

*Contractor will hold eight listening session events, one in each state. Events will be held and coordinated by DRA Project Director and the contractor, with DRA input and guidance*

**Q: Can we have a team including subcontractors?**

A: Yes. Be sure to include the subcontractors in the project organization and staffing section of your proposal as instructed in RFP section 3.9:

*The respondent shall include a section in its proposal that details the proposed project organization and staffing. This shall include all proposed personnel by job title and level of supervision.*

*Respondents shall also identify by name the person they propose for project supervisor (the project supervisor will work on behalf of the contractor in close collaboration with Ted Abernathy, the Project Director working on behalf of the DRA). The project supervisor shall not be changed without prior written approval of the DRA. The respondent shall include a resume or biographical information for the project supervisor, which details how the person is qualified for the position.*

*The respondent shall provide details of its intended project management and project control methods. These shall clearly explain how the respondent proposes to work in collaboration with the DRA Project Director to help manage the project, control project activities, report progress, ensure required staffing, relate and report to the DRA, respond to requests by the DRA and interact and coordinate with other relevant activities.*

**Q: Who did the DRA work with to complete RDP II?**

A: The DRA worked with TIP Strategies in Austin TX to complete the Regional Development Plan II.

**Q: Has a location been identified for the May 2015 region-wide kickoff event?**

A: A location for this event has not yet been determined. Once finalized, the location will be posted on [DRA.gov/rdp3](http://DRA.gov/rdp3)

**Q: Chairman Masingill gave out his cell phone number during the webinar. Could that please be repeated?**

A: Chairman Masingill's cell phone number is 501-772-9686

**Q: If a company is composed of multi-state board of directors, is that a problem?**

A: No, there is no problem with that. For eligibility criteria, please refer to RFP sections 1.3 and 3.8.